

## SMALLPOX AND CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE

For the current California Vaccination numbers, please go to: [California Vaccination Report](#)

- June 27, 2003      Representatives from California Department of Health Services, (CDHS) Division of Communicable Disease Control and the State Department of Fish and Game have been working with the regional US Department of Agriculture to keep monkeypox out of California through site visits and inspections to each of the 15 state Prairie Dog permittees. The Veterinary section of CDHS has heightened contact and surveillance at local fairs and swap meets as well as other venues, such as the internet, where these animals may be traded.
- June 11, 2003      The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that individuals either handling or caring for humans or animals infected with monkeypox should receive a smallpox vaccination within 14 days of contact as a protection against monkeypox.
- May 5, 2003      U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announces that an additional \$100 million of federal funds will be released to the states for smallpox vaccination programs.
- April 11, 2003      Congress and the White House approved a version of a smallpox vaccination compensation program first proposed by DHHS Secretary Thompson, on March 5, 2003. This will provide benefits to public health and medical response team members who are injured as a result of receiving the smallpox vaccine.
- April 7, 2003      In response to the new smallpox vaccination guidelines issued by the CDC which set out heart conditions and risk factors for heart conditions as



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exclusions for vaccination, State Health Director Diana M. Bontá authorizes California's smallpox vaccination program to resume on this day after a one week deferral period.

March 31, 2003

The CDC accepts a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that persons be excluded from the pre-event smallpox vaccination program who have known underlying heart disease, with or without symptoms, or if they have three or more known major cardiac risk factors -- hypertension, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia (high cholesterol) and smoking. The CDC distributes revised pre-vaccination clinic education materials which reflect the new exclusion criteria.

March 28, 2003

Director Bontá directs local health departments in California to defer all upcoming smallpox vaccination clinics until no sooner than April 7, 2003. The deferral, which is in response to the CDC's temporary deferral for potential vaccinees with heart conditions, will provide additional time for the CDC to update their current recommendations regarding the risks of vaccination.

March 25, 2003

The CDC today takes the precautionary step of adding a temporary medical deferral to the smallpox vaccination program for persons who have been diagnosed with heart disease. The CDC is investigating whether there is any association between smallpox vaccination and reports of heart problems in seven health care workers who have been vaccinated.

March 20, 2003

DHHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announces that \$1.4 billion will be provided to states this year to help them enhance preparations against terrorism or other public health emergencies. Special provisions will allow states to obtain up to 20 percent of their 2003 funding immediately in order to support current activities, including expanding the smallpox vaccination program. These grants include \$94,363,388 for California and represent an increase over the current year spending level for both public health and hospitals.

March 11, 2003	The CDHS mails the CDC's smallpox information packets to nearly 360,000 clinicians statewide as part of a nationwide effort to educate medical professionals about smallpox and the smallpox vaccine.
March 5, 2003	CDHS ships 1,800 additional doses of smallpox vaccine to 13 local health departments throughout the state. A cumulative total of 8,300 doses of smallpox vaccine have now been shipped to 48 local health departments statewide.
March 5, 2003	DHHS Secretary Thompson proposes a smallpox vaccination compensation program to provide benefits to public health and medical response team members who are injured as a result of receiving the smallpox vaccine.
February 26,2003	State Health Director Bontá gets vaccinated in San Mateo County as vaccinations get underway in Northern California.
February 24, 2003	California counties outside of Los Angeles begin vaccinating first responders.
February 24, 2003	CDHS conducts a legislative briefing in Sacramento to apprise state lawmakers of the status of the smallpox prevention program.
February 18-19, 2003	CDHS ships 6,400 doses of smallpox vaccine to 35 local health departments throughout the state.
February 14, 2003	In response to its requests for clarification, the CDHS receives notice from the California Department of Industrial Relations that the bifurcated needle used in giving the smallpox vaccine is an approved exception to the FDA requirement for the use of safety needles.
February 7, 2003	CDHS publishes the California state list of contraindications for the smallpox vaccination. This adds one contraindication to CDC list: having an infant under one year old in the household.
January 29, 2003	Los Angeles County begins vaccinating under a separate arrangement with the CDC.

January 27, 2003	California orders first shipment of 10,000 doses of the smallpox vaccine.
January 24, 2003	Homeland Security Act liability protection provisions take effect.
January 23, 2003	The CDHS smallpox information referral phone line is activated.
January 22, 2003	The CDC begins distributing smallpox vaccine to state and local governments.
December 27, 2003	The Immunization Branch of the CDHS begins training sessions for vaccination providers, statewide.
December 13, 2002	President Bush announces smallpox vaccination program for military personnel and for emergency health workers who will form Volunteer Smallpox Response Teams nationwide.
December 12, 2002	The CDC approves the plan developed by CDHS for pre-event vaccination of healthcare response teams against smallpox.
December 10, 2002	Governor Gray Davis announces California's response to the CDC's request for a smallpox vaccination plan.
December 9, 2002	California submits its plan to the CDC for vaccinating health care professionals against smallpox as part of a national effort to guard against bioterrorist attack.
December 2, 2002	California submits a draft statewide plan to the CDC responding to the potential reappearance of smallpox.
October 28, 2002	CDC issues post smallpox event planning guidance to all 50 states.
June 12, 2002	President Bush signs the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Bill, which authorizes over \$1 billion to expand national stockpiles of anthrax antibiotics and smallpox vaccines.
November 1, 2001	Governor Gray Davis announces new regulations to expedite reporting on bioterrorism.

September 11, 2001	The terrorist attacks on American soil prompt renewed focus on United States' vulnerability to bioterrorism.
1986	Smallpox vaccination is discontinued worldwide.
1980	The World Health Assembly certifies that smallpox has been eradicated around the world.
1978	A laboratory-acquired case of smallpox leads to the world's last death from smallpox.
1977	The last natural case of smallpox in the world occurs in Somalia.
1972	Routine smallpox vaccination is discontinued in the United States.
1967	The World Health Organization launches an intensified plan to eradicate smallpox, which still threatens 60 percent of the world's population.
1950s	Despite the 150-year history of the smallpox vaccine, there are still 50 million new cases of smallpox reported each year.
1949	Lillian Barber, 43, of Elsa, Texas is the last known American to die of smallpox.
1948	A child and an adult are the last two recorded victims of smallpox in California. Both survive.
1947	When a tourist brings smallpox to New York, 6.35 million New Yorkers are vaccinated within two weeks.
1798	Edward Jenner demonstrates that inoculation with cowpox protects against smallpox and is safer than variolation, which involved inoculation with actual smallpox virus.
1721	African slave Onesimus brings the smallpox inoculation to America when he introduces the process of variolation to Cotton Mather in Boston.
1000 BC	Smallpox epidemics already recorded in Africa and Asia.